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9 August 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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Indonesia-Malaysia: (Indonesia reportedly will not be satisfied with a UN survey of sentiment on Malaysia in North Borneo and Sarawak that is "too quick.")

Dja-

karta has sent a special emissary to New York to persuade U Thant that a proper survey would require four months instead of the few weeks he envisages. Indonesia may also seek to broaden the UN inquiry to include some assessment of popular will on the Malaysia issue, as well as a poll of elected officials in the area. Sukarno, in a speech on 6 August, said he was certain that the people of the Borneo territories would reject Malaysia "if the spirit of their struggle truly blazes.")

(Malayan Prime Minister Rahman now sees 16 September instead of the previously scheduled 31 August as the date for the establishment of Malaysia. British Foreign Secretary Lord Home, without conceding that the original formation deadline may be abandoned, has asked U Thant to "slice" as many days as possible from the mid-September date.)

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Dominican Republic: President Bosch and disgruntled conservative military and civilian leaders are increasingly at odds.

In a meeting with military leaders on 3 August, Bosch, who is showing increasing signs of insecurity, warned that antigovernment plots were in the making. One involves Antonio Imbert, would-be strong man who has been seeking a pretext to move against the President.

Imbert has told the US naval attaché that he and Luis Amiama Tio--only survivors of the Trujillo assassination--will confront Bosch on his soft policy toward communism, and predicted that Bosch will threaten to resign. Imbert claims military backing for his plan and says he has already chosen the members of a provisional government to replace Bosch.

Imbert's claim of military support is probably a bluff, but recent political developments make a move against Bosch--or his resignation--a growing possibility. Military leaders are increasingly concerned about Communist activity and Bosch is unlikely to meet their demands for a crackdown.

Opposition politicians have heightened the tension by also exploiting the Communist issue. In addition, they are playing on fears aroused by Bosch's recently proposed legislation which many Dominicans thought, in its original form, would have allowed property confiscation without compensation.

During September and October, domestic unemployment--already high and a major economic problem--is due to rise sharply, and Bosch's inability to implement popular reforms could be another reason precipitating a showdown.

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Colombia: Widespread popular and military discontent with the Valencia government is creating new political tensions.

The armed forces have been placed on alert status and granted special powers to make preventive arrests. This action followed the outbreak of a wave of strikes by Communist-dominated unions and the uncovering of an alleged coup attempt by former dictator Rojas Pinilla. So far, Rojas and at least seven of his followers have been arrested.

Military leaders, disgusted with President Valencia's ineffectual handling of the internal security situation, have been pressing for stronger measures, such as the declaration of a state of siege. There is as yet no evidence that a military coup is in the making, but there might be one if the current uneasy state of affairs continues much longer.

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Brazil: President Goulart is continuing to strengthen his personal control over the Brazilian Army.

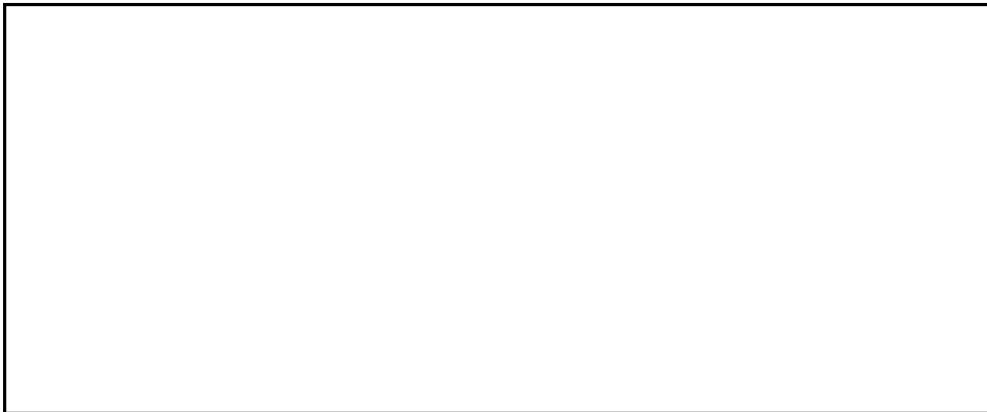
Among the sweeping changes made in key posts on 6 August was the assignment of General Bandeira de Moraes, a strongly pro-Goulart officer, as commander of the important second military region (Sao Paulo). He replaces General Mourao Filho, long an active leader of the anti-Goulart forces in the military. Other nationalistic pro-Goulart officers assigned to politically strategic commands include the new commanders of the Fourth Army in Recife and the fifth military region in southern Brazil.

The government has also announced the transfer of additional army units to reinforce the garrison in Brasilia and more troops are due to follow. The US army attaché believes that the build-up of forces in the capital may be aimed at bringing pressure on the congress to pass Goulart's controversial agrarian reform program.

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Rumania-US: In an apparent effort to improve relations with the US, the Bucharest regime stopped jamming VOA and RFE broadcasts a week ago, and on 7 August proposed to Washington the reciprocal lifting of diplomatic travel restrictions. The Rumanians have also offered to re-examine outstanding differences with Washington and have suggested that the level of diplomatic representation in the two capitals be raised. First Secretary Gheorghiu-Dej told Agriculture Secretary Freeman on 4 August that Rumania hopes to buy US industrial installations, such as a synthetic rubber plant.

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Berlin: (The East German interzonal trade negotiator has demanded that the fees paid for mail cars using GDR rail facilities to West Berlin be doubled. Four hundred first-class-mail cars per month are attached to Allied military duty trains, paid for by the West Germans, while another 1,400 parcel-post cars are hauled by interzonal trains. The new move may signal renewed demands for direct Allied payment for the use of East German - owned rail and cable lines and highways--a threat suggested indirectly by Ulbricht in his speech of 31 July.)

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DAILY BRIEF

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Sweden: The Swedish Government, in announcing its adherence to the nuclear test ban treaty, made it clear that it reserves the right to acquire nuclear weapons if its security interests dictate such a decision. This attitude on the part of a power that has previously taken a prominent role in disarmament negotiations reflects in part the Swedish public's deep concern over the yet unassessed damage done to the country's defenses by Colonel Wennerstrom's espionage activities. Top military officials and the three non-Socialist opposition parties have been especially vehement in arguing against any move that might prevent Sweden from developing a nuclear capability.

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